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Wonsan Area

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Contact Mines and Other Defenses

1. By 14 April 1952, the sea coast around Wonsan, from Ch'olsan-ni north of Wonsan port to P'oha-dong (127-27, 39-09) (CU-6634) east of Wonsan port, was well protected by contact mines. The mines were attached to posts driven into the beach 1 meter apart. Each four posts, with one contact mine attached to each, formed a square. A string or fine wire was attached to the safety device of each mine, and anything which contacted the string would pull the safety device, releasing the firing pin. The mines were partially hidden by grass growing on the beach.
2. There were between 9 and 13 rows of the contact mines attached to posts. The distance from the first row of mines to the water's edge at high tide was 2 meters. Away from the water beyond the contact mines attached to the posts there were other mines buried in the ground. To supplement the mines as a defense against enemy landings, there were machine gun emplacements on the coastal side of many of the mountains and hills in the Wonsan area.
3. Twenty meters east of the former Japanese shipyard in P'oha-dong, Wonsan, there were five or six thatched houses which housed approximately 10 North Korean soldiers who guarded the contact mines and watched for enemy agents.

Construction of Defense Lines

4. In mid-April 1952, the North Korean army was building defense lines in the areas of Wonsan, Hamhung, and Pukch'ong (128-19, 40-15) (DV-4255). In these

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areas every available soldier and able-bodied civilian had been forcibly mobilized into the defense units. Trenches had been dug, and artillery and anti-aircraft batteries had been set up in the mountains and hills.

Troops in the Wonsan Area

5. In mid-April, the defense unit for the Wonsan area<sup>1</sup> was the North Korean army 24 District Defense Brigade<sup>2</sup> with headquarters at Tŏgwŏn (127-22, 39-10) (CU-5936). Approximately 100 soldiers of the 24 District Defense Brigade, armed with 5 x 76-mm. guns, were in foxholes and air-raid shelters near a highway which runs between Changdŏk (127-24, 39-10) (CU-6236) and Yangji-dong (127-25, 39-10) (CU-6336). The guns pointed towards the coast and were camouflaged by grass and tree branches. Approximately 70 soldiers of the 24 District Defense Brigade, armed with 2 x 76-mm. guns, were on a hill near Myŏngsŏk-tong (127-26, 39-09) (CU-6534). Rations for this unit were supplied from Changdŏk.
6. In mid-April, between 500 and 600 soldiers of the North Korean 24 Cavalry and Artillery Brigade<sup>2</sup> were in well-camouflaged air-raid shelters along the coast near Songhŭng-ni (127-25, 39-10) (CU-6336), where they were charged with defending the coast.

1. [redacted] which reported on military units in the Wonsan area in April 1952.
2. [redacted] Comment. Presumably the same unit as the 24 Mechanized Artillery Brigade, which in June was subordinate to the North Korean VII Corps in the Wonsan area, [redacted]

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